United Nations S/2004/174

Security Council

Distr.: General
4 March 2004
English
Original: French

Letter dated 4 March 2004 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of a report dated 1 March 2004 which I have received from the Secretary General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would bring the report to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

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Annex

Letter dated 1 March 2004 from the Secretary General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization addressed to the Secretary-General

In accordance with Security Council resolution 1088 (1996), I attach the monthly report on the operations of the Stabilization Force (SFOR) for January 2004. I would appreciate your making this report available to the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Jaap de Hoop **Scheffer**

Enclosure

Monthly report to the United Nations on the operations of the Stabilization Force

1. Over the reporting period (1-31 January 2004) there were just over 11,280 troops deployed in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia.

Security

2. The overall situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina remained stable during the period under review.

Attacks against SFOR and SFOR operational activities

3. There were no significant acts of violence directed against SFOR personnel over the reporting period.

4. SFOR continued to contribute to the maintenance of a safe and secure environment in Bosnia and Herzegovina and to monitor possible terrorist-related threats throughout the country. SFOR remained engaged with weapons collection, destruction and framework operations.

5. The results of weapons turned in or collected from 1 to 31 January 2004 within the framework of Operation Harvest are: 1,234 small arms (rifles, pistols and revolvers etc); 961,713 rounds of ammunition less than 20 mm; 11,818 rounds of ammunition between 20 mm and 76mm; 109 rounds of ammunition more than 76 mm; 7,356 hand grenades; 1,063 mines; 159,95 kilograms of explosives; 8,973 other items (mortars and mortar rounds, rifle grenades, handmade ordnance, attack rockets etc). With regard to the weapons destruction operations, as at 31 January 348 tons of ammunition have been transported and 446 tons destroyed.

6. SFOR is determined to continue its operations in weapons collection. In the near future, however, the local police will be increasingly encouraged by SFOR to participate in and even to lead joint operations.

7. On 1 January 2004, the new SFOR operation plan, "Dedicated focus", came into effect. The plan is aimed at facilitating a smooth transition to deterrent presence over the next six months.

8. On 10 January, on the basis of intelligence, SFOR headquarters launched a cordon-and-search operation to detain Radovan Karadzic. Republika Srpska Interior Ministry Police (MUP) assisted with the operation. For three days, SFOR personnel carried out searches of a number of locations linked to Karadzic. While Karadzic was not apprehended, a large number of personal and business documents, computers, mobile telephones and recent photographs were seized for further exploitation. Dusan Tesic, a former member of Karadzic's bodyguard, was detained in the operation. He was released by SFOR on 13 February.

9. On 23 January, SFOR assisted the Federation MUP as they detained Ante Jelavic, a former member of the Bosnian Presidency, on suspicion of embezzling bank deposits. Along with Jelavic, the former Federation Defence Minister, Miroslav Prce, and a local business owner, Miroslav Rupcic, were detained in connection with criminal acts related to the establishment and workings of the Herzegovacka Banka and companies linked to it.

10. On 28 January, SFOR detained Zeljko Jankovic, a Bosnian Serb special police officer and former bodyguard to Radovan Karadzic, who is assessed to have information on Karadzic's support network and recent activities. Jankovic is reported to have been involved in collecting "contributions" from Bosnian Serb businessmen in support of Karadzic and is also suspected of being involved in SRJ, an unofficial Serbian intelligence-gathering organization which is clandestinely embedded in the Ministry of the Interior of the Republika Srpska.

Cooperation and compliance by the parties

11. The armed forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina are generally compliant with the relevant provisions of the General Framework Agreement for Peace. A change relating to the procedures for airspace control in the SFOR Commander's instructions to the parties was published. This new version is necessary to facilitate the restructuring process of the armed forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina and to continue fulfilment of the obligations of the parties under the Peace Agreement.

12. During the reporting period, the Entity Armed Forces have carried out normal training activities, in compliance with the military provisions of the Dayton Peace Agreement. In January 2004, there were no reports of missing weapons from weapons storage sites.

13. There were a total of 31 Entity Armed Forces training and operation activities (18 VRS and 13 VF) during the reporting period and 145 movements (85 VRS and 60 VF) conducted during the reporting period. Entity Armed Forces mine-clearing resumed in January 2004; a total of 41,202 m^2 was cleared during the reporting period, a 20 per cent increase upon the same period in 2003. Only one anti-personnel mine was found. Throughout this period, all entities can be considered to have been compliant.

14. SFOR conducted a total of 35 weapons storage site and ammunition storage sites inspections during the reporting period (12 VRS and 23 VF). Four sites were closed this month and another 11 are pending closure.

Outlook

15. In January, SFOR continued to maintain a safe and secure environment, and started to transform its status to deterrent presence level in Bosnia and Herzegovina. SFOR operations focused on detention of persons indicted for war crimes and weapons collection. Although Radovan Karadzic was not detained, substantial evidence and information that will support future operations was collected. In both weapons collection and detention operations, local police forces cooperated closely with SFOR forces.